

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 are pending. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claims 1, 2, and 4-6 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated February 22, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenmochi et al., European Patent Application 1220195, (hereinafter Kenmochi) in view of Yang, U.S. Patent No. 5,808,222 (hereinafter Yang). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections in view of the claims, as amended.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites:

(Currently Amended) A singing voice synthesizing apparatus, comprising:
a singing voice information input device that inputs singing voice information for synthesizing a singing voice;
a phoneme database that stores voice synthesis unit data;
a selector that selects the voice synthesis unit data stored in the phoneme database in accordance with the singing voice information;
a timbre transformation parameter input device that inputs a timbre transformation parameter for transforming timbre; and
a singing voice synthesizer that adjusts a spectrum envelope generated based on the selected voice synthesis unit data and generates a synthetic singing voice of which character is changed by transforming the voice synthesis unit data in accordance with the timbre transformation parameter.

The Kenmochi reference does not disclose, teach, or suggest the apparatus recited in independent claim 1, as amended. As the Examiner has acknowledged, Kenmochi does not teach that the singing voice synthesizer “adjusts a spectrum envelope generated based on the selected voice synthesis unit data in accordance with the timbre transformation parameter.”

(February 22 Office Action, pages 3-4)

The Yang reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Kenmochi. The Yang reference is directed to a method of building a database of timbre samples for music synthesizers. *(Yang, Abstract and Col. 1, lines 10-14)* The Yang reference discloses a technique for

synthesizing waveforms by using a “cosine looping-waveform transformation function”. (Yang, Col. 7, line 58 – Col. 8, line 36) However, Lang does not teach that this technique is used to adjust a spectrum envelope. Therefore, the combination of Kenmochi and Yang fails to disclose, teach, or suggest an apparatus which includes “*a singing voice synthesizer that adjusts a spectrum envelope generated based on the selected voice synthesis unit data and generates a synthetic singing voice of which character is changed by transforming the voice synthesis unit data in accordance with the timbre transformation parameter.*” Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1, as amended, distinguishes over Kenmochi in combination with Yang.

Independent claims 5 and 6, as amended, recite limitations similar to those in independent claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 5 and 6, as amended, distinguish over Kenmochi in combination with Yang for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended.

Claims 2 and 4 depend from independent claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 and 4 distinguish over Kenmochi in combination with Yang for the same reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended.

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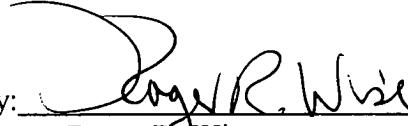
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Applicant believes that the claims are in condition for allowance. If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

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